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Amerika Ueber Alles.

Two significant and praiseworthy utterances came on Thursday from the lips of two Americans in high office. To a caller interested in the attitude of the United States toward the nations now at war the President used these words:

"Think of America first."

Addressing the Democratic editors of the State of Indiana, the Secretary of State said:

"There is not a single thing about the President's conduct in this terrible conflict that can be criticized from the American citizen's standpoint."

"And no criticism in Great Britain or in Germany will prevent him from doing exactly what he knows ought to be done, in order to act on every question according to our neutrality."

If the principle which lies behind these two declarations is adopted for the guidance of every American citizen, whether he be in public office or in private life, the course of the United States and its people will be straight and direct, although it cannot be smooth and easy.

America first, America all the time, America under all circumstances, what more can any native or adopted American ask? What less can any American tolerate?

The War Zone Warning.

All the waters of the Seven Seas are war "zones" as between Germany and the other naval powers with which she is at war. It was therefore unnecessary for the German Admiralty, so far as Great Britain and her allies were concerned, to declare "the waters around Great Britain and Ireland, including the whole English Channel," a war "zone" from and after February 18, 1915. As between Germany and the neutral nations there can be no such thing as a war "zone" in those waters. The use of the term in the Admiralty's announcement does not concern the United States, some of whose ships are engaged in transatlantic trade, if it were not for the sinister warning in the following official language:

"Neutral ships in the war zone are in danger, as in consequence of the misuse of neutral flags, ordered by the British Government on January 31, and in view of the hazards of naval warfare, it cannot always be avoided that attacks meant for enemy ships endanger neutral ships."

What the German Admiralty primarily means is this, we presume: that ships of neutral nations sailing through the English Channel or in any waters "around Great Britain and Ireland" will run more or less risk of being hit and sunk accidentally when in the line of fire, with cargo, crew and passengers, by torpedoes or shells discharged by German warships attacking enemy merchant ships which "misuse" neutral flags in an attempt to escape. There may be an added meaning: that if German warships, probably submarines, which have no great speed, suspect, although wrongly as it may turn out, that a merchant ship flying a neutral flag is an enemy's ship she will be fired on when trying to escape and sunk if she does not stop and surrender or yield to the right of visitation and search. This may be an ugly prospect for American ships trading with belligerents or with neutrals in Europe, but the Germans would be responsible for their mistakes. The sinking of an American merchant ship supposed to be a ship belonging to one of the Allies would provoke a storm of indignation in the United States, the consequence of which might be a declaration of war against Germany in spite of all that diplomacy could do to avoid it.

As the German Admiralty understands this perfectly the presumption is that the "war zone" warning was issued with no thought that German warships would commit the blunder of sinking neutral merchant ships, but to frighten shipping circles in both England and the United States into suspending sailings. A great blow would certainly be struck at the enemy if exportations of food and war materials from the United States to the Allies could be stopped or greatly reduced. The German Government may have another object in view, a strategic object. To meet the greater peril threatened to her merchant ships

Great Britain will be obliged to detach a considerable number of destroyers and submarines from the North Sea and send them into the Channel, leaving her patrol of the North Sea by so much weakened. Raiding upon the east coast of England and attacks upon transports conveying troops to France could then be attempted with better chances of success.

Great Britain cannot afford to remove any of her merchant ships from the Atlantic route. The only notice she can take of the "war zone" notice is to use all her available resources to protect her ships and destroy the German submarines lying in wait for them. As it is impossible for the Germans to establish an effective blockade of British waters with submarines or with any other warships, the United States, unless it is simply willing to forego plain neutral rights on the high seas, will disregard the "war zone" warning. Its tone of bluster and menace will make no new friends for Germany and is likely to alienate old friends. A more impolitic document was never issued. What an unfortunate capacity for blundering the German Government seems to have in these distressful times!

The National Woman's Peace Party.

It may or may not throw any light on woman suffrage, this New York State Branch of the National Woman's Peace Party, which had a meeting in this town Thursday, presided over by one of the most famous of woman suffragists, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. From the programme or platform we cull these three gems:

"Democratic control of foreign policies."

"The further humanizing of Governments by the extension of the franchise to women."

"Removal of the economic causes of war."

THE SUN cheerfully provides the third proposition with italics.

According to Mrs. CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN, another radiant planet of feminism, the new party's programme is meant not only to end the European war but to "alter humanity so that there can be no more war on earth."

Human nature changed, the economic causes of war removed; simple, very, very simple!

Let the Facts Be Made Known Now.

What unrevealed incidents did Secretary REDFIELD refer to when he said that in case the ship purchase bill failed of passage the President and his Cabinet "would place the facts before the people?"

Why, if there has been concealment, is this not the appropriate moment, while the proposal is dying in the Senate for lack of a single vote, to disclose whatever may be hidden, and arouse that sentiment, of which Mr. REDFIELD quite reasonably says:

"Get out of the way of American public opinion when it learns the facts."

So far in the history of this project the mystery has enshrouded only its promoters. The assumption of legislative functions by WILLIAM G. McANEO; the fury of WILLIAM J. STONE; the cryptic outbursts of the President himself; the threats that have been uttered, the unsupported allegations of deep plots and stratagems on the part of its opponents; these have been exerted in its behalf, not against it. The objectors have been the men whose conduct has been open and aboveboard. The promoters are the ones who have worked in the dark.

Has the Administration any "facts" that will arouse the storm Mr. REDFIELD predicts? If it has, let it produce them now, and pass its bill, for the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth Congress will not be a halfhearted assemblage for legislation of this kind.

A Tragedy of Trade.

President WILSON favors anti-trust law exemption of American business combinations for export trade provided such combinations shall not amount to anything. Once more the Administration has demonstrated its inability to understand or recognize practical business facts. Once more it has shown that it is always for the encouragement of business activities "provided"—and the proviso always is that these activities shall not be conducted along the line of business experience, but in accordance with some fantastic theory of political interference or control.

Probably when most business men first noted the newspaper reports of the President's address to the United States Chamber of Commerce in convention at Washington and saw the headline advertisements of his views on export trade combination they said to themselves: "Here at last is something constructive from politics." When they came to read the accounts of his speech they must have had the same old feeling that it was hopeless to expect this political régime to exhibit business intelligence.

Amendment of the anti-trust laws in order to permit American business interests to deal more successfully in foreign markets, where they have to meet the competition of great commercial combinations, has been vigorously advocated by our leaders of commercial enterprises in recent years. The opportunity now offering for an expansion of American trade in the markets of the world furnishes an excellent occasion for such legislation.

Yet the Administration's attitude toward it is altogether in keeping with its position on the shipping bill, a deliberate contempt for business experience and opinion and an autocratic defiance of business ideas.

Nations which have fostered the foreign commerce of their manufactur-

ers and merchants have not been guided by fantastic notions about the desirability of hobbling adequately organized and sufficiently capitalized concerns so that the inefficient and unit trader shall be placed on an equal footing with the efficient and fit. The policies of legislation in the field of domestic business which have been enacted by the direct fiat of the Wilson Administration have displayed business knowledge and business judgment. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Administration's legislative policies for international business are fabricated on the same model, but the principal commercial nations with which we have to compete have a hard headed way of recognizing facts. They have no delusions about the terms on which business must be done, and American business will prove no formidable competitor in the world's markets if it is restricted by a soft headed paternalism which seeks to make the strongest wait for the weak.

The President's stand on the amendment of the anti-trust laws for the benefit of our export trade keeps the promise to the ear and breaks it to the hope of business men. He is for amendment of the laws to permit export trade combinations if producers and merchants best equipped to extend our business in foreign markets are deprived of the advantages of organization, capitalization, skill and efficiency which they have over domestic rivals.

His thought about foreign trade when tested by the facts of international commerce is on a parity with the Administration's conception of international political competition. We must have an army for parade and a navy of sorts to make a pretense of strength in the eyes of other nations, but we must never be really prepared to engage in military competition with them. So, exactly, the Administration seems to say that our business laws may well appear to array us for economic competition, but it must be only an appearance.

As one reads the President's Chamber of Commerce address, the more clearly there is disclosed the familiar disheartening contrast between phraseology and facts in the contemporary political treatment of business questions. The President is doubtful about anti-trust law amendment to permit export trade combinations because a combination has a tendency to exclusion. "When a group of men get control of a good thing," he says,

"they do not see any particular point in letting other people into the good thing." If there are any combinations to which his remarks on the subject would apply it is the labor unions, which are the most exclusive things in the United States to-day. Yet President WILSON had no objection to amendment of the anti-trust laws intended to strengthen labor union monopoly.

Again, the President says that business men are responsible if laws are enacted essentially detrimental to business interests. "Men on the inside of business know how business is conducted," he avers, "and they cannot complain if men on the outside make mistakes about business. If they do not come from the inside and give the kind of advice which is necessary."

Yet when business men sought to advise Congress about the tariff the White House shouted "Lobby!" at them. It shouted "Lobby!" when business experience offered counsel to Congress while it was elaborating the anti-trust laws and interstate commerce acts. The expert advice of the cotton exchanges was contemptuously rejected when the cotton futures act was framed and passed. The bankers who ventured suggestions in the progress of banking and currency legislation were called conspirators, and the cry of "Conspiracy" has been raised in Washington against the business criticism of the Administration's shipping bill.

Probably from such a record as the Administration has made it could not be expected that in turning its attention to foreign trade it would contemplate constructive legislation without a crippling prohibition; that it would advance a positive programme which would be anything but one great qualifying negation. Under the competitive economic conditions which have been established in international commerce large organizations possessed of large capital are indispensable to a realization of trade opportunities. All that President WILSON seems to favor in the nature of legal sanction for export trade combinations is a statute designed to force the fit American business man to declare dividends of his advantages to the unit.

Futures.

His blushing honors thick upon him and the House reeling with yells, the Hon. BRATCHMAN CLARK looked into the seeds of time and spoke:

"The future of the party is tied up or tied down, in spite of struggle and beyond escape, in the Sixty-third Congress."

Possibly that future is tied up or tied down, in spite of struggle and beyond escape, in the Sixty-third Congress.

Was it HEINE who said that ALFRED B. MUSSET said "A brilliant future behind him?"

The Work of the United States Public Health Service.

Under the headline prefixed to this article the *Medical Record* of last week directs attention to the varied and enormously valuable activities of a department of our Government the existence of which is hardly known by few. Our interest in this report is chiefly aroused by the demonstration it affords of the economic administration of public funds under military discipline.

To any one who has visited this beehive of beneficent activity in be-

half of the people it would appear singular that the department, formerly the Marine Hospital Service, is not more generally known. Its most recent achievement is the condemnation after thorough and fair investigation of the Friedmann consumption cure. The administrative supervision of the service is divided into seven sections, (1) scientific research and sanitation, (2) foreign quarantine and immigration, (3) interstate quarantine, (4) sanitary reports and statistics, (5) marine hospitals and relief, (6) personnel and accounts, (7) miscellaneous.

Owing to the more liberal granting of funds by the Congress the division for research has done wonderful work not only in the laboratory but also on the spot where beriberi, diphtheria, hookworm disease, goitre, leprosy, typhoid fever, malaria, pellagra, trachoma (blindness), tuberculosis, ship fever, or last but not least occupational disease, actually prevailed. No "summer soldiers" these! Wherever pestilence and death are most rife, there are the men of this service to be found endeavoring to unravel their mysteries for the protection of the people. Dr. SCHERSCHESKY will shortly publish the results of a most painstaking investigation of the hygienic condition of the garment makers in this city that will be enlightening and advance the welfare of those engaged in this occupation.

Among the recent publications of the section on conditions of the rural schools by Dr. L. CLARK is the discovery that among 13,836 school children examined in the Virginia 12 per cent. of the number were suffering from that rare disease in this country goitre, and that only 1 per cent. of these cases was among the boys, a surprising fact which these determined investigators will doubtless succeed in explaining.

On the subject of malaria several physicians were detailed to make research and instruct the people in prevention by draining, screening, etc., work which has been crowned with success. The same efforts have been directed to the dissemination of knowledge in the prevention of typhoid fever, especially in rural communities.

THE SUN has frequently availed itself of the valuable monthly reports of this chief, Surgeon-General RUTHERFORD B. BUTTS, its grateful and appreciative compliments.

The Synonymy of Opposite Terms.

The Hon. GEORGE WASHINGTON NORRIS, Progressive and Senator in Congress from Nebraska, believes in a permanent Government merchant marine. In that belief, after an interview with Mr. WILSON, wherefrom he got the impression that the President's "emergency" is now to be interpreted as "permanency," he supports the ship purchase bill.

Who is being gulled? Is it the Progressive who thinks he is going to vote for a lasting socialism on the sea, or the Democrats who are wheedled with promises of a temporary Government shipping?

When "temporary" means "permanency" and "emergency" means "forever," the spirit of Truth may well wonder where it is at and throw the dictionaries out of the window.

What must be the state of mind of a Berlin editor who declares that "German submarines will have to direct their torpedoes at neutral ships if neutral Powers do not see to it that misuse of their flags ordered by the British Admiralty does not take place?"

Representative UNDERWOOD of Alabama, soon to be translated to the Senate, is already becoming so cautious in his views that it is difficult to recognize in him the clear headed, practical and sturdy party leader of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the first part of this bill provides for an investigation of dogfish and other predatory fishes and aquatic animals.—THE HON. JAMES R. MANN in the Congressional Record.

So the Sherman law didn't put these bandits out of business? Every land trust having been pried into, the faithful must now dive into the bowels of the sea. Down with the dogfish! At last the gudegen is after him.

A German sympathizer living in Rochester informs the Cologne *Gazette* that "if the enemies of Germany in the States open and close their sympathies were with the land of his birth he would be in the greatest danger," and he adds that "as a matter of fact German Americans are not sure of their lives against the bigotry and fanaticism of friends of the Allies," and yet there are supposedly intelligent persons who cannot understand the growth of prohibition sentiment.

PRESIDENT AND BUSINESS.

When Did He Ever Consider the Opinions of Business Men?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In his speech before the Chamber of Commerce, Washington, President WILSON said:

"Men on the inside of business know how business is conducted, and they cannot complain if men on the outside make mistakes about business. If they do not come from the inside and give the kind of advice which is necessary."

GOLD IN THE WAR.

About 300 Millions Year From the Allies' Mines—Germany's Limit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: According to Sir Edward Holden, one of England's most prominent bankers, the gold resources of Germany will enable her to prolong the war for a year. After that time she may continue to fight, but it will be as a nation thrown wholly upon an irretrievable currency basis, and all the disadvantages in conducting any possible foreign trade in such circumstances and all the discredit that will handicap her future indefinitely. The cable necessarily condenses his speech in reporting it, but that seems a fair statement of the wide world.

Let us examine some broad facts of the situation bearing out this English banker's prognosis, though the cable does not quote him to this purpose. The gold production of Europe proper is almost negligible. Armies on land and navies on the sea must cut off the two Teutonic allies from power to increase their gold supply from outside their borders. They cannot build up a merchandise trade balance on which to draw gold; even Germany's sales of her American securities have been almost entirely stopped, could not get her. But Reichsmark exchange in New York is now at a discount of about 7 per cent. and has been still lower in recent weeks. On the other hand, the Allies of the Entente have the power to divide the annual gold production of the world according to the power they may possess by ownership of producing mines, a favorable trade balance or their credit.

In Germany and Austria-Hungary immense emigrations of paper currency have taken place, the result being a financial drain on Germany. But the Dual Monarchy may be dismissed from consideration. At best its gold standard was a precarious one, maintained practically by artificial exchange operations. The Hapsburg empire is now a financial drain on Germany. So, to deal solely with the German Reichsbank, it can collect to its coffers no more than the domestic stock of gold in Germany. If every coin should be successfully commandeered from private and institutional possession, the Reichsbank would receive from the United States Mint, an undoubted authority, but its date of December 31, 1912, gave \$50,000,000 as the amount of gold in circulation in Germany outside of bank and treasury holdings; the circulation in gold coins being taken at \$1,000,000,000. The former amount has been increased by imports in excess of exports, though English financial authorities contend emphatically that the rates of exchange have not warranted these net imports; that the shipping tonnage suffered from the war in the last two years "have not been in accordance with economic laws." But Germany's circulation, plus these import gains, has been reduced by whatever advances have been made to the stock of the Reichsbank. In gold coins there is room for only \$100,000,000. The London *Statist* hardly concedes \$350,000,000 as Germany's present circulation of gold. But whatever be the true amount, it is the maximum limit to which the Imperial Bank can expand its gold hoards.

A WHEAT EMBARGO.

Is Such a Measure Needed to Keep Down the Prices of Foodstuffs?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: President WILSON has now before him a glorious opportunity to do something to relieve the suffering of the people. The rise in the price of foodstuffs is something that can hardly be regarded by him as merely psychological. Let him take the matter into his own hands and do something radical. Let him put an embargo on wheat before it is too late; that is, before the price of bread is increased to such a point that it is something that affects every family in the land. European countries are protecting their foodstuffs by putting on a tariff. Why should we not do the same? We should think of ourselves first, not Europe. We have done and are doing our part in extending help to the suffering of the world from the war. But, as "charity begins at home," we feel that the time has about arrived to do something for ourselves. As we are not to blame for the war, we should have no earthly reason why we should be taxed to pay for it.

Let us keep our wheat at home. If Europe would not take wheat from us, let them keep it. It is not our affair. Let them be the sufferers, not us. Isn't it about time for the President and Congress to wake up?

WILLIAM L. DOOLEY.

BROOKLYN, FEBRUARY 5.

Six Cent Bread.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: A bumper crop of wheat, why six cent bread? It is not our affair. Let them be the sufferers, not us. Isn't it about time for the President and Congress to wake up?

WILLIAM L. DOOLEY.

BROOKLYN, FEBRUARY 5.

AT THE SLUSH STOP.

A New Campaign Against New York Led by General Discomfort.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Following their successful mobilization for the "near side stop" last summer New Yorkers are now on the test of endurance by service in the trenches of the permanence of this innovation is to be assured during the winter season.

In the past, a campaign, given at length in The Sun by the efficiency engineer of the Board of Aldermen, this contingency was evidently overlooked. It now remains for the Board of the Street Cleaning Department to save this project by diminishing the mortality which will follow a course of watchful waiting in the cold, and the cold, and the cold, in their effort to capture a place in a street car.

JOHN P. DAVIN, M. D.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5.

Plans Rules for Surface Car Riders.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your article "Will the Street Cleaners Repeal the Near Side Stop Rule?" can be answered in a measure by saying that passengers could get off and on from the front end of the cars, which would bring them right in line with the cleared sidewalk on the near side of the street.

Is not the far side rule just as bad if patrons get off on the forward side and step into more than a foot deep pile of slush and sleet?

My recommendation would be that the cars stop on the near side during the six mild months and the far side for the winter months, should front entrance not be in line with the traffic company's policy.

HIRAM.

BROOKLYN, FEBRUARY 5.

Werner Horn's Violation of Neutrality.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The international status of Werner Horn, whose attempt to destroy the international bridge at Vanebo, Me., failed, may still be a matter of doubt. In any event the United States has excellent grounds for procedure against him. He has grossly violated the neutrality which we have honestly endeavored to maintain and upon which sundry resident Germans and other aliens rely. There appears to be nothing American in their makeup) have been so vehemently insisting. Would it not be in the nature of justice that a punishment should come at our hands?

K. M. ELISH.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., FEBRUARY 4.

The Pileus Punctuator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why the period after the front page title of THE SUN? Periods terminate sentences only, and are used in abbreviations. Isn't it time that the reckless use of periods came to a full stop?

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5.

Two Literary Contractors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The advertisement of Bunker & Bunker on the editorial page of THE SUN today is great. I hope the book sells well. They will need the money after 1915.

G. W. S.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., FEBRUARY 4.

THE DEARTH OF MARES.

A Serious Shortage That Horse Breeders Must Consider.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Those who have to do with things military in Canada are in hearty sympathy with the plan outlined in a letter from J. T. Fitzgerald recently printed in THE SUN, urging the importance of placing a ban on the sale of mares suitable for producing cavalry remounts. Quite a large proportion of the cavalry and some of the horses that have been purchased in Canada have been mares with a strain of good blood, in fact animals of a type that is going to take us years to replace, and it is only now that they are gone that we have become thoroughly awakened to the gravity of the situation.

In company with some other admirers of the half bred, admittedly the most perfect type of remount in the world, I have recently sent a representative to the race tracks in the vicinity of New York City. Fortunately we secured a large thoroughbred sire, which we expect to place in the stud in the best farming districts in this vicinity within the next two months.

We are doing this in the hope that we may be able to repair the damage we have suffered through the loss of our blood stock in the least possible space of time. There has always been a number of good thoroughbred stallions in western Ontario, but there are fewer now than there were, and the breeders with horses at a higher figure than they have sold for some years are looking for strong support from the progressive horse breeding farmers of the Dominion.

I have recently sent it stated that the United States has lost 500,000 horses since the war began, through purchases by representatives of the French, English and Italian Governments. A large proportion of these must have been mares. Are our American cousins aware of the gravity of the situation which confronts them or will they take a leaf from our book of experience and profit accordingly? A. E. REASON, Captain First Hussars.

LONDON, ONT., FEBRUARY 3.

PROS AND ANTIS.

The Latter Accused of Being Plagiarist Advertisers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: With the exception of the parodies on "Tipperary" the antis seem to have no ideas for advertising their goods, and must needs borrow from their opponents. When suffragists run too roo, conduct rallies or advertise in street cars, the antis immediately do the same, being apparently unable to invent propaganda of their own.

On the other hand, it is unlike suffragists to lack wit, and that may be the reason why they have not counterbalanced the "Tipperary" parodies with a string of similar childish verses. That is not surprising, for the antis say, "Don't let a few women force the burden of suffrage on all women. It not fair play, since it would seem that some one might as well be in the manger; if you don't want the hay let Dobbin have it."

However, that would be ill tempered and unworthy of any cause. The antis mean well, and think they know best what is for our good.

LINDA L. CONTENT.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 5.

BUYING IN BULK.

Let Every Kitchenette Dweller Consider Its Advantages.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: George W. Perkins' pamphlet on "Buying in Bulk—Not in Packages" should be read by every one who is concerned with the cost of living. It is a good common sense and the Housewives' League has made a serious mistake in protesting against it.

To buy in bulk satisfactorily but three things are necessary: foresight, a good storeroom and the sense to deal with an honorable firm of grocers. Whether you get pure food is not, it seems to me, dependent upon buying in bulk or package, but upon the honor of the firm selling the goods.

Ten years' experience of both systems has shown us that buying in bulk not only reduced expenses but that we got more for our money. The trade of groceries and full weight, and I learned to distrust the packages, the wholesale firms too often relying upon the weight of their names to give the balance. As for getting a good bargain, the dry goods, with a modern maid in a modern city kitchen, be sure that between the operation of the package and eating the contents, I have not lost it. Then, too, we do not buy meat, lettuce, spinach, etc., in packages, yet every one knows that there are greater germ life and purity in the fresh meat, dry goods, and carriers of the dry goods. Is not the fear of the germ more dangerous than the germ itself? Living in bulk, it seems to me, costs of living, and I for one do not believe it adds any risk to life.

E. H. CONVERSE, N. H., FEBRUARY 5.

Disaster His Specialty.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I do not know who is more insulting to Americans, Wilson's treatment of the great business interests of the country, upon which our prosperity depends, or his estimation that we shall abandon our common sense and business ethics for the sake of a few dollars' worth of living, and I for one do not believe it adds any risk to life.

E. H. CONVERSE, N. H., FEBRUARY 5.

Short Study of Great Subjects.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The typical "progressive" or "uplifter" is a man who has a keener appreciation of his obligations than the average. He is therefore likely to be a "progressive" in his attitude